

3.0 SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

3.1 METHODOLOGY

This report summarizes comments received in the five public meetings and from roughly 100 “Visioning Sheets,” letters and emails, totaling approximately 1,200 individual comments. In the following pages, “comments” or “points” refer to a discrete statement or portion of a letter, email or “Visioning Sheet” pertaining to a specific issue. Generally each written letter, sheet or email contained many different points; the content of each letter was recorded in full, but comments were then broken down into individual points in our database.

Each point or comment was then coded to a specific issue category. Comments from letters and emails were reorganized to keep all statements addressing the same category together, but were otherwise recorded verbatim. Occasionally, a comment addressed more than one issue category, in which case it was coded to both categories it directly addressed (this increased the total number of points in the database by approximately 150). Comments received at public meetings were recorded as closely to how they were stated as possible, but are not direct quotes.

Our intent with this report is to provide a review of the range of comments received. We have also listed the number of comments received on each topic to give the reader an idea of the amount of public interest by topic. These numbers were not used to constitute a “vote.” The BLM considers all comments in the planning process, even if only made by a few people or one individual, provided the comment is relevant (i.e., substantive and within the scope of the plan).